

RAILROAD LANDS IN NEBRASKA.

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MEMORIAL AND JOINT RESOLUTION  
OF THE  
LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA,  
IN RELATION TO  
*Certain lands in said State.*

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FEBRUARY 17, 1873.—Referred to the Committee on the Public Lands and ordered to be printed.

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*To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America :*

Your memorialists, the legislature of the State of Nebraska, would respectfully represent: That under recent decision of the honorable Secretary of the Interior, the selections of certain lands, situated in this State, made by the several railroad companies that have received from the General Government large donations of public lands in aid of the construction of their respective roads, were, for the reason that the said lands were not embraced in their grants, held to have been improperly made, and were canceled, and the lands restored to the public domain for homestead and pre-emption entries. That under the operation of said decision, and of the homestead and pre-emption laws of the United States, settlers have in good faith entered upon these lands, and in many instances made valuable and lasting improvements. That your memorialists have been informed that the same railroad companies, through their agents and attorneys, are now endeavoring to obtain the passage by your honorable bodies of an act to restore or confirm these selections, canceled by said decisions, the intended effect of which is to present to the honest and *bona-fide* settlers the alternative of an abandonment of their land and improvements, or being drawn into tedious and expensive litigation with wealthy and powerful corporations to maintain the possession of them. Your memorialists therefore earnestly pray that your honorable bodies will not, by the passage of such an act, cause the hardships and sufferings that must of necessity ensue to the settler upon these lands thereby, but if any action be taken in the matter, rather let it be that which will protect them from loss in the possession of their homes; and

*Be it resolved*, That a copy of this memorial be immediately forwarded by the secretary of state to each of our Senators and to

our Representative in Congress, and that they be respectfully requested to present the same without delay, and to use their best efforts to secure the favorable consideration thereof by the Congress of the United States.

M. M. SESSIONS,

*Speaker of House.*

WILLIAM A. GWYER,

*President of the Senate.*

Approved February 6, 1873.

ROBT. W. FURNAS, *Governor.*

This act originated in and passed the house of representatives January 15, 1873.

J. W. ELLER,

*Chief Clerk.*

STATE OF NEBRASKA, SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT.

I, John J. Gosper, secretary of the State of Nebraska, do hereby certify that I have carefully compared the foregoing copy of memorial and joint resolution, passed by the legislative assembly of this State, during the ninth session thereof, and approved by the governor the sixth day of February, 1873, with the original rolls on file in this office, and that the same is a true and perfect copy of said memorial and joint resolution.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the great seal of the State of Nebraska.

Done at Lincoln, this seventh day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, of the Independence of the United States the ninety-seventh, and of this State the sixth.

[SEAL.]

JOHN J. GOSPER.